

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 NIC-01 EB-07 COME-00

CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 /086 W
----- 002226

R 271014Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4585

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMSSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1534

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652 XGDS1

TAGS PFOR CH TW RP

SUBJECT: GROC REACTION TO PHILIPPINE NORMALIZATION WITH THE PRC

REF MANILA 3708

1. IN THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON A NUMBER OF TOPICS ON MARCH 18, GROC FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN CH'ANG-HUAN LEFT ME WITH THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT (AS REFTEL SUGGESTS) THE GROC INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS HARDLINE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PHILIPPINES' EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE PRC. SHEN INFORMED ME THAT ABOUT A WEEK PREVIOUSLY HE HAD CALLED IN PHILIPPINES AMBASSADOR LAPUS AND TOLD HIM THAT IF THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUED ALONG
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ITS PRESENT PATH, THE VERY FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN

THE GROC AND THE PHILIPPINES WOULD INEVITABLY COME TO AN
END. WHILE THE ROC WOULD NOT WISH TO REGARD THE PHILIPPINES
AS HOSTILE, IT WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO THINK OF THEM AS
UNFRIENDLY, AND PRESIDENT MARCOS WOULD HAVE TO BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE JEOPARDY DONE TO SECURITY IN EAST ASIA.

2. SHEN EMPHASIZED TO ME THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT
ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT TO THE ROC, IMPLYING THAT HE
CONTINUES TO DISMISS THE POSSIBILITY OF RELATIONS
BEING CARRIED ON IN SOME MORE LIMITED, NON-DIPLOMATIC
WAY. HE ALSO EXPRESSED WORRIES ABOUT THE DANGER OF THE
PRC USING THE PHILIPPINES AS A BASE FOR INFILTRATION INTO THE ROC.

3. IN A MARCH 25 CONVERSATION WITH LAPUS AFTER HIS RETURN
FROM MANILA, LAPUS INTIMATED TO ME THAT HE HAD BROUGHT
BACK "NOTHING NEW" FROM MANILA AND THAT HE PRESUMES
MARCOS WILL PROCEED ON SCHEDULE WITH NORMALIZATION.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT THE GROC IS LIKELY TO
FOLLOW ITS HARDLINE POLICY TOWARDS THE PHILIPPINES UNTIL
THE LAST CARD IN THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS HAS BEEN
PLAYED. ONCE THE PHILIPPINES RECOGNIZES PEKING,
HOWEVER, THE GROC WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF SOME ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION
WITH THE PHILIPPINES ALTHOUGH SUCH ARRANGEMENTS ARE
MOST UNLIKELY TO BE AS BROAD AS THOSE EXISTING BETWEEN
THE ROC AND JAPAN.
UNGER

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